



USAID
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KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

USAID Newsletter

March – April 2013

Economic Development



USAID Supports Access to Finance in the Kyrgyz Republic: On March 1, 2013, the Kyrgyz Republic's Parliament held hearings on a new Law to expand the use of finance guarantee funds that will build on USAID's programming. In the past two years, the USAID Local Development Program opened loan guarantee funds in the cities of Kara-Balta and Jalal-Abad. These initiatives demonstrated the potential that guarantee funds have to promote local economic development. Other cities have acknowledged this potential and are ready to open their own guarantee funds. During the public hearing participants recognized the necessity and urgency of the draft law and submitted their suggestions and amendments. The public hearing is a preliminary step in the eventual adoption of a law that will provide a legal framework for the countrywide replication of these guarantee funds.

Photo: Beneficiary in Kara-Balta. With the help of the Guarantee Fund, this local baker has increased her production and begun supplying baked goods to the Kara-Balta schools.



USAID Supports the Development of a National Economic Strategy: On March 19, USAID Local Development Program, through a Consortium of the International Business Council (IBC) and the Public Association "Support of the Government and Business Partnership," presented the results of their initial analysis towards designing a roadmap for a 20-year national economic development strategy for the Kyrgyz Republic. The presentation also included the analysis of the previous national economic development strategies and prior donor-funded efforts in economic development. The main objective was to have a stakeholder-inclusive dialogue to identify key milestones of economic development and reach a shared understanding of achievements and challenges.

Photo: from left to right: Bektur Aliev, Board Chairman, International Business Council; Joomart Otorbaev, First Vice Prime-Minister of the Kyrgyz Republic; Talaibek Koichumanov, Head of Business Development and Investment Council Secretariat under the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic.

Health and Education



USAID Commemorates World TB Day in Kyrgyzstan: In honor of World Tuberculosis (TB) Day, USAID joined its international and local partners in supporting the Kyrgyz Republic Ministry of Health's efforts to raise public understanding of TB. On March 22, 2013 in Bishkek's Victory Square, representatives from the U.S. Embassy and students from Bishkek's universities and high schools took part in a run and enjoyed a dance contest for youth. Other events sponsored by USAID and its partners in March included a press conference, a journalism competition, an art contest, a performance for school children in Bishkek, a press tour to share TB prevention and treatment activities at work, a community action for health campaign and health fairs targeted at the most at-risk populations in Bishkek as well as the Chui and Osh provinces. As TB continues to be a global epidemic and a

particular concern in the Kyrgyz Republic, USAID is working to improve TB diagnosis and treatment. USAID is also helping to improve the management of the country's supply of TB drugs and improve the capacity of primary health care and TB hospitals.

Photo: Bakyt Myrzaliev (center), Country Manager of USAID TB CARE is awarded a certificate and a cup to students of the American University of Central Asia for successful participation in the run.

USAID Launches Civil Society and Governance Support Project: On March 12, 2013, USAID awarded a 5-year, \$8.1 million agreement to the East-West Management Institute to implement a new Collaborative Governance Project in Kyrgyzstan. The project has three components that will 1) develop a mechanism for the government to undertake social procurements; 2) build capacity of civil society through the development of a non-profit management degree program and training courses in rural regions for local civil society organizations; and 3) provide nearly \$2 million in small grants to support CSO advocacy. The final component continues programming to support civil society organizations started by USAID's Office of Transition Initiatives (OTI) and is financially supported by the UK Department for International Development (DFID).



US/UK Parliamentary Strengthening Initiative in Kyrgyzstan Achieves

Results: On April 16, 2013, USAID and the United Kingdom Department for International Development (DFID), through their joint Kyrgyzstan Parliamentary Strengthening Program, held a presentation to Members of Parliament to introduce the program's third phase, which will be implemented from 2013-2015. At the event, held in the main Parliament chamber, the program presented its achievements during the first two phases of the program and introduced plans for the program's third phase. This marks the beginning of the final stage of this five-year program aimed at creating a strong and independent Parliament in Kyrgyzstan, strengthening parliament's role in the social and economic life of the country, and improving the quality of legislation that Parliament passes.

Photo: Speaker of the Parliament Asylbek Jeenbekov (left) shakes hands with USAID Representative Carey Gordon to thank USAID for the assistance provided.



New Parliamentary Women's Club Will Boost the Role of Women in Kyrgyz Parliamentary System:

On April 5, the USAID Kyrgyzstan Parliamentary Strengthening Program launched a new organization to support female staff of the Kyrgyzstan Parliament. The organization will provide female parliamentary staff with opportunities for professional capacity-building and career growth. Thirty women representing various parliamentary committees, faction secretariats, administration departments and structural divisions approved a resolution to create the Parliamentary Women's Club.

Photo: new members of a female parliamentary staffer organization – the Parliamentary Women's Club.



Judiciary Issues Discussed with President Atambaev: On March 4, 2013, USAID and IDLO's Judicial Strengthening Program (JSP), attended a meeting on Judicial reform with Kyrgyz President Almazbek Atambayev. Kyrgyzstan's Prime Minister, Speaker of Parliament and Chief Judge of the Supreme Court also attended. At the round table, USAID Representative Carey Gordon and JSP Director Fred Huston spoke strongly in favor of allocating at least two percent of the national budget to the judiciary. President Atambayev declared full support for the creation of a just judicial system. Referring to his country's troubled recent past, he said it was precisely the lack of such a system which had caused two revolutions in the last seven years.

Photo: (from left to right) Chair of the Supreme Court Feruza Jamasheva, Speaker of the Parliament Asylbek Jeenbekov, President Almazbek Atambaev, Prime Minister Jantoro Satybaldiev, and Head of the Presidents Apparatus Daniyar Narymbaev at the meeting with donors and about 140 participants overall.



Using Dance to Build Life Skills: As part of USAID's youth Jasa.kg program, young people living in 16 local orphanages are being trained on a variety of skills for coping with the outside world. On April 30, six teams with over 100 teenagers from six orphanages competed in a dance competition held at the Atai Production

Studio at the Kyrgyz Turkish Manas University in Bishkek, following six months of free training by local dance instructors. The best selected team from Belovodskoe special school will participate in the “I’m a dancer” International Festival of Atai Omurzakov on September 14, 2013.

Photo: boys and girls (14-17 years old) demonstrated their dance skills and talents at the contest.



“Diversity through the Eyes of Youth” Photos Reflect Real-Life and Diversity: From March 1-9, 2013, a photo exhibition entitled “Diversity through the Eyes of Youth” took place at the Bishkek Humanities University as part of the USAID-funded project, *Conflict Mitigation through Targeted Analysis and Community Action in Kyrgyzstan (COMTACA)*. This exhibition was aimed at engaging youth in the peace making process by changing their perceptions on how they see intercultural tolerance and harmony between diverse groups in their communities. Over 60 photographs were submitted by 22 young photographers throughout Kyrgyzstan. A selection committee including professional photographers and a representative of the Ministry of Youth determined 11 winners. Four photos received People’s Choice Awards.

Photo: More than 150 people attended the opening ceremony on March 1st and several hundred more attended throughout the week.



Bright Lights and Safe Driving in Uzgen City: On April 30, USAID/OTI and Uzgen city officials in Osh Province celebrated the recent installation of traffic and street lights in the city. With support from USAID/OTI, the city government is improving driver safety and boosting economic opportunity for city residents by rehabilitating the city’s main thoroughfares, including the placement of street lights along 19 kilometers of roads and traffic lights at 48 locations throughout the town. USAID/OTI supported the purchase of 50 poles and 396 lamps for the rehabilitation of lights along municipal streets, and provided 12 pedestrian crosswalk lights for the six main intersections in central Uzgen.

Photo: street lights and traffic lights with poles are installed in Uzgen city.

For more information about USAID in the Kyrgyz Republic contact:

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